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Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District
201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000
Fax: 720-913-9035

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025

GUILTY PLEA IN “TORTURED DEATH” OF BOY

A man charged in the 2008 scalding death of a 2-year-old boy has pleaded guilty in connection with the case after being restored to competency.

John Vigil (dob: 09-17-84) pleaded guilty on Friday to *child abuse resulting in death* (F2). He will face up to 36 years in prison when he is sentenced in May.

The case dates back to November 2008, when Vigil and the mother of 2-year-old Elijah Archuleta brought him to St. Anthony hospital with severe burns; he died shortly after arrival. The investigation determined that Vigil had caused severe burns over 75% of the child’s body by scalding him in the bathtub and then he failed to seek medical care for the child. Instead, he and the child’s mother drove around running errands while the child was dying a slow, painful death from the burns.

The boy’s mother, **Isela Reyes-Talamantes** (dob: 02-23-85) is serving a 20-year prison term in connection with the death, because she also failed to make any effort to seek medical care that could have saved his life and she later lied to police in an effort to protect both herself and her boyfriend from prosecution.

Vigil will be sentenced May 9, 2013, at 1:30 p.m. in Denver District Courtroom 5D.